Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

generating, on a local computer, an install license for software installed on the local

computer, ~~wherein the install license is generated by the local computer~~ in

response to the software being installed;

obtaining, by the local computer **in response to generating the install license**, from

a remote computer a trial license for the installed software, wherein the trial

license is generated by the remote computer;

determining, by the local computer, whether the trial license is authentic; and

replacing, if the trial license is authentic, the install license with the trial license.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ **claim** 1, wherein replacing, if the trial

license is authentic, the install license with the trial license comprises:

setting, by the local computer, a first identifier to associate the install license with the

local computer;

determining whether the first identifier matches a second identifier of the trial license;

validating a digital signature of the trial license;

determining, if the first identifier matches the second identifier and the digital

signature is valid, that the trial license is authentic; and

replacing, as a result of determining that the trial license is authentic, the install

license with the trial license.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ **claim** 1, wherein obtaining from the remote computer the trial license further comprises:

connecting to the remote computer[[,]] **;**

providing the remote computer with at least a portion of the install license; and

exchanging the install license for the trial license.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ **claim** 4, wherein connecting to the remote computer comprises connecting to the remote computer via a communications network.

6. (Original) The method of ~~Claim~~ **claim** 5, wherein the communications network is the internet.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ **claim** 5, wherein exchanging the install license for the trial license includes formatting data from the install license according to a set of text processing rules and transmitting the formatted data using a text transfer protocol.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ claim 1, further comprising verifying whether the replaced license is valid, including determining whether the replaced license has expired.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ claim 2, further comprising digitally signing the install and trial licenses, wherein digitally signing the install and trial licenses includes applying a message digest algorithm to a portion of the license not including a length of the license or the digital signature, resulting in a message digest, the message digest being further encrypted with a binary key extracted from the unique identifier.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine-accessible medium including thereon sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause an electronic system to:

    ~~generating~~ generate, on a local computer, [[a]] an install license for software installed on the local computer, ~~wherein the install license is generated by the local computer~~ in response to the software being installed;

    ~~obtaining~~ obtain, by the local computer **in response to generating the install license**, from a remote computer a trial license for the installed software, wherein the trial license is generated by the remote computer;

~~determining~~ determine, by the local computer, whether the trial license is authentic; and

~~replacing~~ replace, if the trial license is authentic, the install license with the trial license.

14. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of ~~Claim~~ claim 13, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to replace, if the trial license is authentic, the trial license with the install license comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to:

set, by the local computer, a first identifier to associate the install license with the local computer;

determine whether the first identifier matches a second identifier of the trial license;

validate a digital signature of the trial license;

determine, if the first identifier matches the second identifier and the digital signature is valid, that the trial license is authentic; and

replace, as a result of determining that the trial license is authentic, the install license with the trial license.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 13, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to obtain, by the local computer, from the remote computer the trial license further comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to:

connect to the remote computer;

provide the remote computer with at least a portion of the install license; and

exchange the install license for the trial license.

28. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 27, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the remote computer comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the remote computer via a communications network.

29. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 28, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the remote computer via the communications network comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the remote computer via the internet.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 13, wherein the machine-accessible medium further comprises sequences of instructions that, when

executed, cause the electronic system to verify whether the replaced license is valid, including determining whether the replaced license has expired.

32. (Currently Amended)   The article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ <u>claim</u> 26 further comprising sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to digitally sign the install and trial licenses, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to digitally sign the install and trial licenses include sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to apply a message digest algorithm to a portion of the license not including a length of the license or the digital signature, resulting in a message digest, the message digest being further encrypted with a binary key extracted from the unique identifier.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

selectively refreshing the trial license prior to expiration of a predetermined period of time.

34. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the machine-accessible medium further comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to selectively refresh the trial license prior to expiration of a predetermined period of time.

35. (New) A method comprising:

generating, by a computer, a software install license in response to installing a software on the computer;

receiving, by the computer, a ping from an external software license servicing agent

to detect the software install license; and

generating, by the computer, a software trial license in response to receiving the ping

from the external software license servicing agent.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, generating the software install license further

comprising:

storing the software install license as pong data.

37. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising:

replacing the software install license with the software trial license.

38. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising:

receiving, by the computer, a purchased software license from the external software

license servicing agent; and

replacing the software trial license with the purchased software license.

39. (New) A method comprising:

pinging, by a software license servicing agent, a computer;

receiving, by the software license servicing agent, a software install license from the

computer in response to pinging the computer; and

generating, by the software license servicing agent, a software trial license in

response to receiving the software install license.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising:

transmitting, by the software license servicing agent, the software trial license to the

computer.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, pinging, by the software license servicing agent, the

computer further comprising:

pinging a pong data of the computer wherein the pong data includes the software

install license.